

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 24 are amended herein. Claim 23 is cancelled herein. Claims 25 and 26 are added herein. While Applicants disagree with the current rejections, Applicants have amended the claims to expedite prosecution. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in one or more continuing applications. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the drawings and specification. As such, no new matter is added. Also, Claims 25 and 26 recite similar limitations as recited in previously presented claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 23 and thus do not raise new issues. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kenji (JP Pat. No. 200-278551). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 are amended herein to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 23, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19-22 and 24 ultimately depend from Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 and are allowable for at least similar reasons.

Claims 25 and 26 recite similar limitations as in Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 23 and thus are allowable for at least similar reasons.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 23 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 are herein amended to include subject matter of Claim 23, which the Examiner agrees is allowable. Therefore, Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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